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PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wehrbein, would you yield?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Senator Wehrbein, you mentioned the situation of the ag economy and the need to reduce the checkoff. Now we have a checkoff for soybeans also, right?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR RAIKES: And to your knowledge are we reducing the soybean checkoff as a result of low soybean prices?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: No.

SENATOR RAIKES: No.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: We're not building soybean processing plants with checkoff money though either.

SENATOR RAIKES: Fair enough. But I would make the point that if this was the arrangement, 50/50 seems like a reasonable deal. The money will, that is collected, will in fact go back to the producers who contribute it for their use, so I support the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Seeing no other lights, Senator Beutler, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is just a modest proposal to restore the current law in terms of who is contributing to the fund. And I think that if you look at all things considered, considering current subsidies under LB 775, that ethanol...that the ethanol industry already gets, plus Quality Job Incentive Funds in some cases and even those funds are incentives to ethanol...to ethanol companies, and considering that it probably would not be a good thing to reopen all of the discussions about what is a fair contribution as between the parties, and I understand that parties are not intending to reopen that discussion, so why not leave the proportions the same as they have always been? And to do that we would simply restore the three-quarters that is current law,